If you modify freedom of expression and conscience and association according to the current popularity of the words expressed and the beliefs held and the people associated with -- you have destroyed those freedoms. They are destroyed not only for an unpopular minority, but for everyone; for everyone must then consider his words and his beliefs and his associations with caution -- lest they be <u>interpreted</u> in an unpopular way.

Every man has the right to be unpopular, or even to be wrong, in these areas without suffering the consequence of official censure, blacklist or jail. Most peace loving people <u>will</u> find themselves unpopular with this Committee.

A citizen may be held accountable only for his acts. This principle has been written into our Constitution and has been spelled out for this Committee often and eloquently. The Committee's continued intimidation of <u>all</u> people under the pretext of attacking a few is its fundamental purpose.

I do not, therefore, intend to enter my beliefs or my associations in a popularity contest in which the members of this Committee are the judges. I shall offer no cooperation to the evil purpose of these hearings, except that which the force of law compels. I shall resist the Committee in every way that the Constitution provides.

-- Statement of Alfred Lewis Levitt before the House Committee on Un-American Activities, September 18, 1951. (The Committee refused to accept the statement into the record.)